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As hospital bosses tell of closures, campaigners square up to save services at Horton

HEALTH campaigners have vowed to fight a decision to permanently axe a specialist surgery unit based at Horton General Hospital and newly-revealed plans to close an OAP ward.

The Keep The Horton campaign group made the pledge after the controversial move by health bosses, who said changes would benefit patient care.

Emergency abdominal surgery – halted in January 2013 because of concerns over low staffing – will not return after councillors last week agreed not to intervene.

Keep The Horton chairman Keith Strangwood said: “They admitted that they had failed to consult properly, yet the councillors let it go through on a nod.

“We put our trust in them to uphold the rules, but they haven’t. It’s very frustrating.”

Mr Strangwood added: “We haven’t given up. We may go down the legal route. We have enough evidence to prove that

BATTLE PLEDGE

By Alex Wynick

they failed to carry out proper consultation.”

Emergency abdominal surgery was suspended last year after three of the five consultants in the unit left, meaning about 25 patients a week had to travel to Oxford’s John Radcliffe Hospital instead.

County NHS managers told the Oxfordshire joint health overview and scrutiny committee last Thursday that there were not enough specialist doctors to cover both hospitals.

Their report said the move was “in the interests of patient safety and the quality of patient care” but said more services could return to the Horton.

The hospital’s once-threatened maternity unit had been “stabilised” because of rota changes; key diagnostic tests were set to run seven days a week and there would be “significantly” more outpatient clinics, it said.

Concerns were expressed last month at a meeting called by

hospital leaders and attended by about 200 people at Rye Hill Golf Club, Milcombe, that the future of the hospital was under threat.

Ian Wilson, interim chief executive of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group – which makes decisions on NHS spending in the county – told the committee: “This is not a thin-end-of-the-wedge question.

“The Horton has a good and strong future ahead of it as a general hospital.”

Yet he said leaders accepted they should have consulted earlier as plans were being discussed to axe the service before the “crisis” of January 2013.

He said: “There were shortcomings in regards to communications, the CCG played a part in that and I apologise.”

Andrew Stevens, director of planning and information at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs the hospitals, backed the move because of the lack of skilled doctors.

He said: “You could, for example, have a situation where a breast surgeon has to operate on a gall bladder, even though he may not have done such a procedure for many, many months.”

At the same time it was revealed that mental health bosses planned to close the Horton’s 17-bed Fienness ward for the over-65s. Those patients needing a bed could be sent to Oxford instead.

Mr Strangwood said: “I’m pleased they’ve followed proper consultation rules on this subject and are letting us speak.

“We will scrutinise this very carefully. We need to make sure that people aren’t forced to travel to Oxford for treatment. But if, on the other hand, it means that they can alternately get help at home, then that’s good.”

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust said community teams would be working to 8pm instead of 5pm during the week and, for the first time, at the weekends from 9am to 5pm. They said that being cared at home “resulted in better clinical outcomes”.

Its other OAP mental health ward, at the 34-bed Fulbrook Centre, in the Churchill Hospital, Oxford, would be refurbished.



LEFT: Keep The Horton chairman Keith Strangwood

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■ 'They all did such great work to make the Banbury community what it is'

Honours for town's top volunteers

VOLUNTEERS from across Banbury were honoured in a glittering awards evening at the town hall last week.

On Thursday, nearly 100 volunteers came together at the Banbury Community Awards Evening to celebrate their achievements and contributions.

This year, town mayor Nicholas Turner launched a series of awards to recognise those who "make Banbury a better place".

He said: "It was something that I wanted to start, because I've lived in Banbury my whole life and I know there are so many charities doing good work.

"I hope the mayors of the future think this was a success worth continuing and will run the awards again."

By Alex Wynick

Three awards were handed out: best voluntary organisation, volunteer of the year and young volunteer of the year.

Over 50 people and groups were nominated, which the judges whittled down to just four for each category.

Mr Turner, 52, said: "It was so hard to pick winners, because they all did such great work to make the Banbury community what it is."

The best organisation was named as Radio Horton, a hospital radio station staffed by volunteers.

Fifty years after it was founded, this is the first award the station has won.



Mayor Nicholas Turner with the Banbury Community Awards winners, from left, Flight Lieutenant Karl Kisley, Radio Horton's Bob Dainty, Ted Hanson and Stewart Green, and Young Volunteer of the Year Ricci Capel

Station manager Stewart Green said: "I'm in deep shock about it. I can't believe we were chosen out of the amazing charities that were nominated.

"We're very pleased. It's a great recognition for all of the hard work and team effort that we put in."

Flt Lt Karl Kisley won the volunteer of the year award, after being the commanding officer of the 1460 Banbury Air Cadets for the last seven years.

The 41-year-old said: "We do a lot in the community. We try to help out where we can in terms of parades and events and things."

But Mr Turner said: "Karl helps those kids on their way. He gives so much of his time to the air cadets. He absolutely deserves this"

Young volunteer of the year was named as 18-year-old Ricci Capel, who coaches at the Banbury Bulldog Skater Hockey Club.

He said: "I didn't expect it at all, but I was really excited when I did.

"I just train hard and put a lot of effort in every week. I enjoy it."

All shortlisted nominees received a cheque of £100 for their charity. Category winners received trophies and £500 for their charities.



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Councillors to discuss Connor case with social services

TWO councillors are hoping to meet with social services after the death of a teenager in council care.

Connor Tremble, 17, right, died last month after he was found stabbed at his flat in Fairacres Road, Oxford, on February 13. He had been under Oxfordshire County Council's care since December 2012.

Iffley Fields councillors Elise Benjamin and David Williams have asked to meet with the authority's social services department about his death.

Ms Benjamin said: "David Williams and I will be meeting with county officers to look at how this

unfortunate incident could have occurred.

"We have also been working with local police to reassure residents that this would appear to be an isolated incident.

"We also wish to pass on our condolences to Connor's family."

The county council would not comment on the meeting.

Connor's death came two months after 17-year-old Jayden Parkinson went missing from a council-funded hostel in Iffley Road, Oxford. The county council was criticised after failings in care of vulnerable girls, in council care, who were groomed

and sexually assaulted by the Bullfinch gang. William Blencowe, 20, of Oxford Road, Banbury, has been charged with Connor's murder.

He is next due to appear at Oxford Crown Court on May 30 for a plea and case management hearing.

● A 21-year-old man has been released without charge after being held by police investigating the death of Connor Tremble.

The Carterton man was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to murder in the early hours last Thursday in Hereford. But he was released by police later that evening.



■ Traffic figures were 'hidden' in 55,000-page rail scheme report

Campaigners claim HS2 chaos looms at M40 junction

CONSTRUCTION of the Government's High Speed Rail Project will have a "major adverse effect" on Oxfordshire's roads, according to a report.

An environmental statement produced for a consultation of phase one of the HS2 project says thousands of extra vehicles could use the M40, leaving at Junction Ten to use the A43, Oxford Road, in north Oxfordshire.

Campaigners say they only spotted the traffic figures a fortnight ago as they were "hidden" in a 55,000-page report.

The Department for Transport is pressing ahead with the £42bn rail link scheme, which would link London to Birmingham and skirt a corner of Oxfordshire at Mixbury and Fimmere.

According to its transport assessment, up to 2,372 extra vehicles a day, Monday to Saturday, could use the motorway junction.

Work on the HS2 line is expected to start in 2017.

Two construction bases are planned just across the Northamptonshire boundary near Brackley, and would be

By Sam McGregor

in use for about six years.

Oxfordshire county councillor Catherine Fulljames warned the increased amount of traffic could have an "enormous" impact on the M40 junction.

She said: "If they are going to produce that many journeys, it would have an enormous effect on that junction, as the incinerator traffic is to be routed to that same junction with the county's waste. The junction is not coping now."

Farmer Rachel Halvorsen, of Versions Farm, Turweston, which would be affected by HS2, found the traffic figures after scouring the 55,000-page report.

She warned regular Bicester/Oxford commuters to find another route.

Bernie Douglas, chairman of Villages of Oxfordshire Opposed to HS2, VoxOpp, said the traffic implication was "huge".

He said: "We only clicked on to this about two weeks ago.

"It raises a wider question. There's an awful lot of

information either incorrect or hidden from view."

He said villages including Mixbury, Fimmere, Newton Purcell and Westbury had been working together and had responded to the consultation.

In October 2012, the Government announced £1.3m of funding to improve congestion at the M40's Junction Ten.

At the time, the district councillor for Ardley, Jon O'Neill, raised concerns it would not be enough to solve the problems. Work is due to take place this year.

The HS2 site would operate Monday to Saturday, between 8am and 6pm, and until 1pm on Saturdays. Staff were expected to car-share and arrive/leave after peak travel times.

HS2 lead spokesman Ben Ruse said building the rail link would be "challenging".

He said: "A major part of that challenge is planning how to transport millions of tonnes of excavated material without impacting on rural roads, communities and wildlife.

"Junction Ten of the M40 is highlighted with the



A high speed train that would run on the HS2 route

Environmental Statement as a location that will experience additional traffic as a result of construction vehicles.

"This junction is already renowned as a busy location for traffic.

"That is why the Highways Agency has been carrying out extensive works at this particular junction, which will ease congestion. The works are due for completion in May."

InBRIEF

Group awarded RSPCA honour

■ A MONITORING group, which gathered evidence that led to the prosecution of the Heythrop Hunt in 2012, has won an RSPCA award for its work. Members of the Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire Hunt Monitor Group won the special investigation award for ensuring hunts stay within the confines of the law.

They also provided the charity with film footage and acted as witnesses for court cases, including the successful prosecution of two members of the Heythrop Hunt in December 2012. The hunt kennels are in Chipping Norton and it hunts in West Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

The hunt and its former huntsman, Julian Barnfield, 49, of Chipping Norton, and former master Richard Sumner, 68, of Salperton, Gloucestershire, admitted a total of 12 charges of unlawful hunting with dogs at a hearing at Oxford Magistrates' Court.

Forum's date

■ THE next Faith Forum, organised by Cherwell District Council, will be on Tuesday at the Banbury Town Hall. There will be a chance to meet NHS representatives and find out more about health services, and faith groups will discussing barriers that prevent people from accessing these services. Cherwell's Nicholas Turner said: "The Cherwell Faith Forum is a direct route for faith groups and communities to get their message across on local services." To attend, call 01295 221575 or email faith.forum@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Homes scheme

■ A PLAN has been submitted for 31 homes off Milton Road, Adderbury. Banner Homes Midlands Ltd has applied to Cherwell District Council to build 20 private and 11 affordable homes. To view the application visit cherwell.gov.uk using the reference 14/00250/F

Man's £320 bill for failing to put litter in nearby bin

A SMOKER has been fined £200 after throwing rubbish on the ground in front of two council officers.

Michael Mayhew, 36, of Woodgreen Avenue, Banbury, was spotted discarding papers from his cigarette packet in High Street, Banbury, despite being about seven metres from a bin, according to Cherwell District Council.

He was given an on-the-spot £75 fixed penalty notice last November 6, which he failed to pay.

Banbury Magistrates' Court found him guilty of depositing litter and fined him £200 in his absence after he failed to turn up at court on February 25.

Mayhew was also told to pay court costs of £100 and a £20 victims' surcharge.

Afterwards Nigel Morris, the council's clean and green chief, said: "There is never any excuse for littering but in this case what is even more aggravating is the fact Mr Mayhew was standing just a few steps away from the nearest bin.

"By simply throwing rubbish on the floor shows a blatant disregard for the environment and the law."

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It was a 'once-in-a-decade event' Night when nature gave a light show

PEOPLE in North Oxfordshire were treated to a once-in-a-decade spectacle last week when the Northern Lights glistened across the skies.

There were green, blue and red natural lights – known as the Aurora Borealis and normally only visible in Scandinavia.

Astronomy photographer Mary Spicer, 41, from Tackley, captured the display – and was so excited that she stayed up well into the early hours.

She said: "I felt quite emotional. I've only ever seen them once before and it's just something that I look out for all the time. To actually see it made me choke up."

"I couldn't believe it was this far south. It was amazing and beautiful." Mrs Spicer had been taking photographs through a telescope of

By Dan Robinson

new stars forming in her back garden when she noticed a red light in the sky.

She did not think anything of it until her husband, Mark McIntyre, texted her saying there had been local reports of people seeing the Northern Lights.

She took her equipment to a sloped field next to her home to get a better view. The display lasted for about an hour, starting at 8.45pm.

Mrs Spicer said: "It's always more visible on photographs than it is to the naked eye. It's more of a grey-green rather than the vivid colour you see in pictures."

Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group chairman Robin Smitten, 61, did not manage to see it because he was working as a



This is the moment the Oxfordshire sky was transformed by the Northern Lights. Mary Spicer, from Tackley, took this photograph from outside her home last Thursday evening

projectionist at Chipping Norton Theatre.

He said: "It's one of those things where you do have to be in the right place at the right time."

"But there were three or four days warning that there was a burst of activity from the sun, which triggers this sort of event somewhere along the

line. It has to be quite powerful to get this far south, so to see it in Oxfordshire is quite a rare occurrence.

"Anyone who did see it should give themselves a pat on the back because it's quite a fascinating thing to watch."

Oxford University astrophysics researcher Robert Simpson, 32, said: "I've been told this display was the

brightest in about 20 years.

"It's a once-in-a-decade event, so it's a bit gutting to have missed it. There were a lot of sad faces around our office after the event."

"We were very lucky that there were clear skies, because it makes a big difference in allowing people to actually see it."



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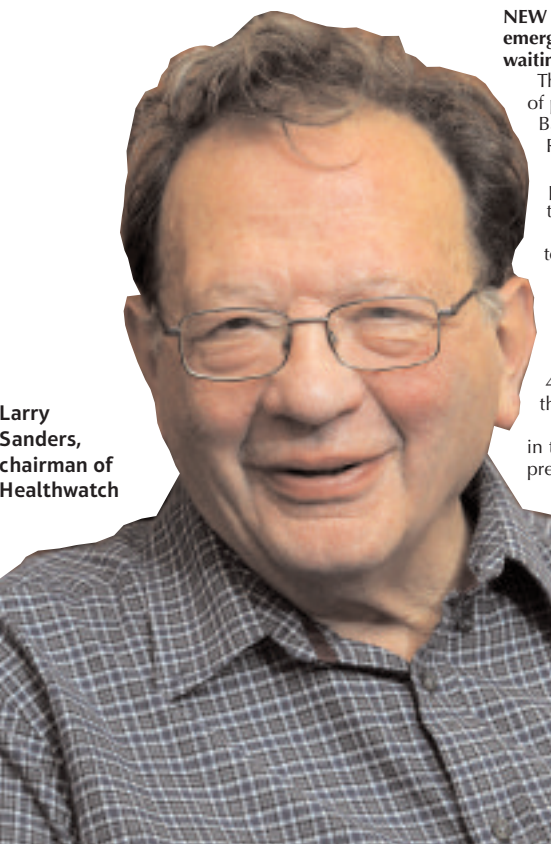
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Figures rocket as A&E patients are seen minutes before four-hour limit

Hospitals in last-gasp bid to beat deadlines



Larry Sanders, chairman of Healthwatch

NEW figures have revealed a surge in accident and emergency patients being seen minutes before a waiting-time target expires.

The figures have revealed a sharp rise in the number of people seen shortly before the target deadline at Banbury's Horton General and Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital.

Emergency departments must ensure at least 95 per cent of people are discharged, admitted or transferred within four hours.

But hospital bosses have warned many are going to A&E with less serious conditions and could be seen by other NHS services, causing long delays.

Of the 116,700 seen at county A&E departments last year, some 18,855 were dealt within three hours 51 minutes to four hours since arriving.

This was up from 8,755 seen from three hours 41 minutes to three hours 50 minutes and 6,029 in the nine minutes before.

It means some 16 per cent of patients were seen in the last nine minutes, up from 10.3 per cent in the previous year.

Most of these – 57 per cent – were admitted while 15 per cent were discharged with no follow-up and 12 per cent asked to see their GP.

Though a similar surge was seen across England, just eight per cent waited in the last nine minutes.

Larry Sanders, chairman of Healthwatch, the county's official NHS watchdog, said: "It is definitely a distortion."

"The four-hour limit has obviously done some good. On the other hand, this kind of abstract target leads to unwanted results."

He said of those who wait longest: "What I guess happens is people who are left like that are people who the staff can't make up their minds about."

The figures – for the 12 months from April

By Oliver Evans

2012 – show the busiest time was about midday, when 7,292 attended.

Some 9,330 waited up to an hour, with 20,583 one to two hours; 27,941 two to three hours; 49,567 three to four hours and 9,279 four hours and over.

The longest average waits – about three hours and 20 minutes – were about midnight and the lowest – two-and-a-half hours – were at about 8am.

The trust has only hit the 95 per cent target for two weeks since October 20.

Oxfordshire MP Andrew Smith said: "There is always a danger that focusing on any single target will skew behaviour, but assuming it's all being recorded accurately this does show the efforts being made to achieve the maximum four-hour wait target."

"The key clinical judgement here is ensuring that those needing the most urgent attention are getting it, which is not something measured in these figures."

A trust spokesman said: "Patients attending A&E will be assessed, treated and either discharged home or admitted to a ward within four hours."

"During that time there may also be a wait for blood test results and diagnostic imaging and this can sometimes take a bit of time and, at very busy periods, patients are more likely to wait the full four hours."

"Patients will always be seen based on their clinical priority and need."

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InCOURT

Verdicts from magistrates' courts around the county

■ **TAYAOB HUSSAIN**, 19, of Queens Road, Banbury, admitted possession of Class-B drug cannabis at St Marys Centre, Horse Fair, Banbury, on December 19. Fined £100, a £20 victims' surcharge, and £45 costs.

■ **DAMIAN SKWARA**, 30, of Causeway, Banbury admitted assault by beating in Banbury on January 4. Community order made with a supervision requirement. Also told to do 240 hours of unpaid community work in the next 12 months. Restraining order also made. Told to pay a £60 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **DANIEL HANWELL**, 20, of Marlborough Place, Banbury, admitted shoplifting DVDs worth £124 from Tesco in Lockheed Close, Banbury, on February 3. Fined £100 and a £15 victims' surcharge.

■ **LISA TERRY**, 39, of Mackley Close, Deddington, admitted shoplifting a pork meat joint worth £6.70 from Co-op in Mewburn Road, Banbury, on April 1. Given an absolute discharge.

■ **LEE BROMLEY**, 37, of Thyme Close, Banbury, admitted shoplifting three jars of coffee worth £8.85 from Farm Food Ltd in Banbury on December 9. Also admitted dishonestly using electricity without due authority in Banbury between January 23 and January 30. Fined a total of £100, £5 compensation, a £20 victims' surcharge, and £50 costs.

■ **NICHOLAS BRAIN**, 22, of Ardley Road, Middleton

Stoney, admitted being drunk in public in Sheep Street, Bicester, on January 31. Fined £325 and ordered to pay a £33 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **JONATHAN JACO**, 35, of Jubilee Court, Banbury, admitted stealing perfume worth £45 from Debenhams, Banbury, on January 27, and failing to answer bail at Banbury Magistrates' Court on February 12. Fined £120 and ordered to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £50 costs.

■ **ADRIAN FANNON**, 35, of Evenlode, Banbury, admitted stealing meat worth £33.46 from Co-op on Mewburn Road, Banbury, on January 5. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £17 compensation and a £15 victims' surcharge.

■ **JESSICA TUSTAIN**, 21, of Howard Road, Banbury, admitted shoplifting cosmetics worth £33.38 from Boots Chemist in Castle Quay, Banbury, on January 13. Community order made with drug rehabilitation and supervision requirements. Told to pay a £60 victims' surcharge.

■ **ASHLEY DAY**, 29, of no fixed abode, admitted using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour or disorderly behaviour within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress in St Mary's Church, Horse Fair, Banbury, on November 11. Given an 18-month conditional discharge. Told to pay a £15 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs.





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■ Business chief warns of dangers of increasing pay to the low-earners

Paying the 'living wage' could lead to fewer jobs

PAYING more staff the living wage could result in a reduction in employee benefits and even fewer jobs, a business leader has warned.
Clair Prosser, the policy executive at



Ian Hudspeth

By Damian Fantato

Oxfordshire Chamber of Commerce, said: "There is no doubt that low pay is a problem in Britain, with five million employees earning below a living wage.

"Yet political and campaign pressure to increase wage rates at the bottom end could result in ballooning pay bills right up the scale, leading to reductions in employee benefits, loss of jobs, or reduced investment."

Her warning came after Oxfordshire County Council agreed to pay its employees more than the standard minimum wage – to take into account the higher cost of living in the region.

It will become one of the increasing number of councils in Oxfordshire to pay its workers a living wage – the average is £7.65 an hour.

Miss Prosser said: "Higher pay, with no consequent improvement in skill levels or productivity, could hurt our competitiveness across the world. Given everything we are doing to promote export, domestic debates like this take on an increased significance."

But council leader Ian Hudspeth said it

was in recognition of staff.

He added: "It is to make sure they are getting good recompense for all the hard work they do. I would like to think that if negotiations go well, we could implement this by April this year."

Mr Hudspeth said the council would be negotiating with trade unions and with schools, many of which are now academies and so independent of the council's control.

At around £7.65 an hour, the living wage is higher than the national minimum wage, currently £6.31, and is calculated based on the cost of living in a specific area of the country.

But Mr Hudspeth said no decision had yet been taken on what rate the county council's living wage would be.

Cherwell District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council already pay the living wage.

The figure for the UK living wage is set annually by the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University. The London living wage is set by the Greater London Authority.

The research looks in detail at what households need in order to have a minimum acceptable standard of living.



Clair Prosser, from the Oxfordshire Chamber of Commerce

InBRIEF

Farmer scares off thieves

■ THIEVES used boltcutters to break into a Deddington farm before fleeing when spotted on Wednesday of last week. Two gates and a barn near Banbury Road were broken into, however nothing was stolen. A white van was driven away from the farm after the owners disturbed the gang. It happened at 12.25am. Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101.

Open doors

■ NORTH Oxfordshire Academy is throwing open its doors to potential apprentices next week. Students can visit its apprenticeship fair today to find out more about the courses on offer as part of Apprenticeship Week. The event runs until 8.30pm at the academy in Drayton Road, Banbury.

Lead theft bid

■ A THIEF tried to strip lead from the roof of a Bodicote home. The attempted theft happened in Rookery Close on Monday, February. Anyone with information should call police on 101.



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InBRIEF

TV presenter plans visit

TV presenter Jonathan Ross will visit Banbury next month to sign copies of his new comic. The host of ITV's *The Jonathan Ross Show* will be at Comic Connections in Parsons Street, Banbury, with writer Ian Churchill to launch the comic *Saveaway*, April 5.



Guest speaker

PLAYWRIGHT David Edgar will be the guest speaker at a fundraising supper organised by Banbury Labour party, on Friday, March 14, at The Institute, Adderbury. The event is open to non-members. Tickets cost £10 and include supper. For more information contact Mary Evans Young on 01295 268676 or email mlevansyoung@aol.com

Copter trace

A TWITTER account called @NPAS_Benson has been launched for those wanting to follow the activity of the region's Thames Valley police helicopter.

BBC Radio 2 nominee tells of a lifetime of battling heart problems

The harmonica maestro who plays for his health

HE has been described as a "master of the mouth" and is recognised as one of the world's best harmonica players.

But the story of how 26-year-old Will Pound's musical talent began is as remarkable as the sounds he creates.

The harmonica player, who lives on a narrowboat called Midama with his wife, Nicky, in Cropredy, has a career to be proud of.

Most recently he was nominated for a BBC Radio 2 folk award.

He was one of four shortlisted for the Musician of the Year Award at recent Folk Awards.

And while he didn't win, Mr Pound, who recently recorded the harmonica part for *The Hillsborough Single*, which featured Sir Paul McCartney, modestly said it was great just to be nominated.

He said: "The winner – Aidan O'Rourke – was a really nice guy. Picking a winner is really hard because it's so close and we all do such different things."

But perhaps more impressive is how he started playing the harmonica.

He explained: "When I was a baby I had open-heart surgery.

"The first operation was when I was just six days old. It was an emergency operation as I was born without a pulmonary valve.

"I then had a second op when I was four. After that I found it quite a struggle to breathe. If I was walking, I would run out of breath quite quickly.

"When I was ten, my dad gave me a harmonica to improve my breathing. At first it was pretty tough, but after two or three years it was helping me a lot.

"You use a lot of breath playing, especially when I

By Alex Wynick

play fast. When I first started I couldn't do that at all."

He added: "I was into music anyway – it was great because I got to play and help my health at the same time."

His health problems are still not completely cured, but Mr Pound said: "I'm fine when I play gigs because you play for a few minutes, then you stop, chat to the

crowd, and then play again. But when I'm practising I can only really play for ten minutes at a time without a break.

"I'm supposed to be having another operation in the next two or three years, which will supposedly help with my breathing as well."

As well as releasing his first solo album, Mr Pound has formed his own Will Pound Band, with a violinist, guitarist and bass player. They are due to perform at the North Wall Arts Centre, Oxford, on Saturday, April 12.



RIGHT: Will Pound plays an unusual gig in the usually quiet rooms of a library. He joined members of folk group Hot Club Deplayford for this event

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Commissioner backs Concordat

THAMES Valley Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld has backed a national agreement, setting out how mental health patients should be treated.

The Department of Health published a Mental Health Concordat and it has now been signed by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners on behalf of all the country's police chiefs.

Mr Stansfeld said: "I feel it is important that all agencies work closely together to improve the care of people in mental health crisis, which is why I am delighted to support the Mental Health Concordat.

"It has long been recognised by Thames Valley criminal justice agencies that there is a need for earlier intervention and support for people with mental health

needs. There must be more joined-up approaches with health and social care to provide the services and level of support required.

"There is already a considerable amount of work happening in the Thames Valley region, including the custody intervention program, which I fund, to identify, assess and refer those brought into custody for mental health problems or learning difficulties."

And he added: "I am also in the process of reviewing the mental health implications that being a victim of crime can have, and I intend to make sure that funding is directed into support for the needs of victims experiencing significant long-term harm, to help them to recover from their experiences."



Anthony Stansfeld

Accident verdict on crash victim

THE family of a retired deputy headteacher, who died after her car hit a tree, have paid tribute to a "great character."

An inquest at Oxfordshire Coroner's Court heard that Charmian Snowden, from Milton, accidentally hit the accelerator pedal instead of the brake, causing her to crash into a tree in Sandfine Road, Broughton, on September 11, 2013.

Mrs Snowden, 82, who retired as deputy head at Tudor Hall School in 1993, died of her injuries at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital on September 21.

Her son, Mark, said after the inquest: "She was a great character in the local community of Milton."

Oxfordshire Coroner Darren Salter recorded a verdict of accident.

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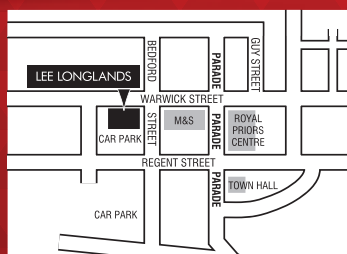


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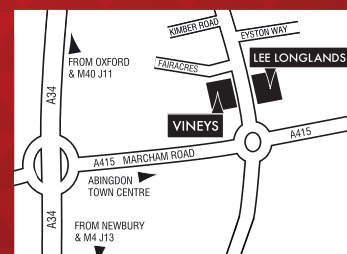
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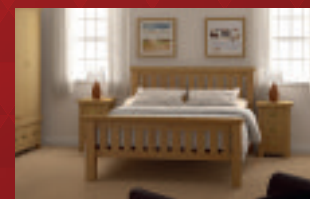
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Picture Frizzante 50 x 50cm	£99	£8	Rainy Days and Mondays Picture	£265	£38
Picture Justine	£225	£16	LILAC Picture	£129	£33
NATUZZI Loft Floor Lamp	£369	£68	FOGARTY 6'0" (Super King) Duvet	£110	£19
FLAGSTONE Lamp Table	£275	£84	Metal Rhino on Base Art Work	£85	£9
RHYTHUM Rug 120 x 180cm	£345	£34	BRINTONS Bell Twist 1.6 x 5.0 Mtrs Colour Thatch	£320	£56
JESSICA Rug Cream 120 x 170cm	£359	£48	ADORABLE Carpet 4.3 x 3.3 Mtrs	£568	£87
Glass African Mask with Stand	£235	£34	HELSEY TWEED Carpet 3.7 x 3.8 Mtrs	£564	£88
La Travers Desert Picture	£299	£37	HELSEY TWEED Carpet 2.4 X 3.2 Mtrs	£308	£62
PUNCH Natural Rug	£199	£34	RUG Mont Black 160 x 230cm Colour Red	£125	£23
WHISPER Rug	£245	£48	RUG WHISPER 120 x 180cm Colour Apple	£195	£39



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The Big Feastival line-up is revealed

POP-star-turned-cheesemaker Alex James and celebrity chef Jamie Oliver have revealed the line-up for their third annual Big Feastival – describing it as “one hell of a party”.

Dance music DJ Fatboy Slim and jazz artist Jamie Cullum will headline the food and music festival, which takes place on former Blur bassist Mr James's farm at Kingham this summer.

Mr James, who has developed his own range of cheeses while playing occasional shows with Blur, said: “The Big Feastival gets bigger and better every year.

“I’m absolutely delighted with 2014’s line up. Basement Jaxx were a big hit last year and we wanted to keep Saturday night quite dancey, so I’m very pleased to welcome my old pal Fatboy Slim to the farm.

“He’s going to bring the house down.

“Kelis and Jamie Cullum will be here too, along with Feastival favourites Norman Jay and The Cuban Brothers. I can’t wait. It’s going to be one hell of a party.”

He added: “Jamie and I are cooking up few surprises as well, so watch this space.”

By Tim Hughes

Mr Oliver agreed. He said: “Put the date in your diary, as this year’s Big Feastival has the best line-up to date.

“Who doesn’t fancy a boogie to Fatboy Slim while eating some delicious street food?”

Tickets for the event, which will run from August 29-31, are now on sale.

Music will also come from Cowley-based folk-pop band Sornoway, American R&B star Kelis, three-piece Kitty, Daisy & Lewis, singer-songwriter Jack Savoretti, reggae act The Lee Thompson Ska Orchestra, Notting Hill Carnival stalwart Norman Jay, The Cuban Brothers, Duke and Molotov Jukebox. There will also be special guest appearances from Abba and Fleetwood Mac tribute acts Bjorn Again and Fleetwood Bac.

The culinary line-up will feature demonstrations by chef Gennaro Contaldo, one of the stars of BBC TV’s *The Two Greedy Italians*, and Le Gavroche Sous Chef – and *MasterChef* star – Monica Galetti.

The festival hosts will also be



FLASHBACK to September 2013, when Alex James and Jamie Oliver were performing on stage with the Cuban Brothers at the Big Feastival

showing off their skills, along with award-winning chefs Ashley Palmer-Watts, Nathan Outlaw and Valentine Warner and barbecue expert Christian Stevenson – aka DJ BBQ.

For the first time, the festival will also feature a full programme on the Friday.

Mr James first hosted a food and music festival on his Cotswold farm in 2011.

However, the company organising the event, Big Wheel Promotions, collapsed, owing £57,000 to local firms and organisations.

The following year he launched The Big Feastival in partnership with Taste Festivals.

Organisers say the two festivals since then have proved a great success, attracting 20,000 people each year and supporting local businesses and groups.

● Weekend tickets are £115 for adults and £60 for teenagers aged 13-17. Day, VIP and camping tickets are also available. Go to thebigfeastival.com or call 0844 995 9673.

A comic clash of parents

YASMINA Reza is an expert analyst of social hypocrisy; and her play, *God of Carnage*, starts out as a rancidly funny account of two couples tiptoeing around their mutual dislike.

The play, being staged by Banbury Cross Players at the Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, is loaded with misogyny, racial prejudice and homophobia, a recipe of our time...

It is said to be “a comedy of manners without the manners”.

The play, which runs until

Saturday, deals with the aftermath of a playground altercation between two boys and what happens when their parents meet to talk about it.

As the evening progresses, the alcohol flows and tensions emerge until finally the gloves come off.

It is a brutally entertaining play, a comedy and a winner of the 2009 Tony Award.

God of Carnage also won an Olivier Award for Best New Comedy in London, and became the third longest-running

production of the decade on Broadway with 452 performances.

It has also been adapted as a film, directed by Roman Polanski, in 2011.

The *Independent* newspaper calls it, “Fierce and very funny. Elegant, acerbic and entertainingly fuelled on pure bile”.

Tickets are still available from the Mill Box Office, at 01295 279002 or online at themillartscentre.co.uk

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Defeat despite quickfire goal

BANBURY scored one of the quickest goals ever seen at Spencer Stadium, but still fell to their sixth Calor League, Premier Division defeat in a row on a day of endless defending.

With Dominic Lawless and Scott Bridges having left, there were enforced changes with new signing Daniel Bevis, from New Bradwell St Peter, on the bench.

Banbury got off to the best of starts when, virtually from the kick-off Aaron Morgan hit a superb strike from 30 yards which smashed against the underside of the Totton bar.

It bounced down for the predatory

Banbury United	3
(Talabi 1, Isaac 29, Blossom 89)	
AFC Totton	4
(Roberts 2, Gilkes 8, Lindsay 14 Moulard 68)	

Adeyinka Talabi, following up, to head the ball home from five yards after just 15 seconds.

Amazingly, less than a minute after the restart, Totton were level.

A free-kick was pumped into the Banbury penalty area and it fell to Luke Roberts, who slotted the ball home from five yards.

It only took until the eighth minute

for Totton to take the lead.

A long ball from Liam Hibberd saw Harrison Gilkes get ahead of the slack Banbury defence and lob the stranded keeper Kwame Fordah from the edge of the penalty area.

Just before the quarter-of-an-hour mark, it was 3-1 to the lowly visitors.

Banbury twice failed to clear the ball, which eventually fell to Lewis Lindsay who, in plenty of space, struck it home from four yards.

Banbury reduced the deficit to one before the half-hour mark when Nic Evangelinos put through Kynan Isaac, who slotted the ball into the corner of the net past an exposed keeper Steve Mowthrope.



AFC Totton defender Rob Flookes flies in, but can't prevent Kynan Isaac calmly slotting home Banbury's second goal

OX6563

Totton effectively wrapped up the points with a fourth goal midway through the second half.

Gilkes used his trickery and skill to take the ball along the bye-line before cutting it back for Zac Moulard to bundle it home.

Though United rarely looked like getting back into the contest, they

scored their third goal a minute from time when Isaac's free-kick led to Wayne Blossom sliding in at the far post to complete the scoring.

Banbury Utd: Fordah, Cray, Mullarkey, Isaac, Blossom, Ryan, Pinto (Sufi 69), M Martin (Obeng 86), Evangelinos, Morgan (Bevis 39), Talabi. Subs not used: Tappin, Simpson.

Attendance: 178.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

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ARIES Mars plays games with your emotions, making it extremely hard for you to get your heart and head to communicate. Bide your time and make this a week in which you take in the evidence, rather than cast any judgement. What you have yet to find out is that you have hidden help in high places. Things can turn out in your favour, if you show faith. Ring now so I can tell you more my friend. 0906 585 4360	LIBRA Family are not making it very easy for you to be honest about your feelings and you spend much of this week thinking of ways you can avoid certain subjects with certain people. Taking time out to think about what you want as well as what others are asking is the key to everyone being happy with what transpires. House sales and purchases are lucky now. Ring me and I'll tell you a secret. 0906 585 4366
TAURUS There are still a lot of unresolved family issues in your head, but you need to stop and ask yourself how necessary they are to your present and future. Your chart suggests that you could be holding on to bad feelings which don't really need to be there. Focus on the future and what's ahead, rather than what's gone by. It's the key to you feeling ten years younger. Ring me so I can help you. 0906 585 4361	SCORPIO Money is likely to be tight this week as Jupiter tries to force you into a position where you can see what's really important in life, rather than just what looks good to outsiders. Avoid getting involved in a split which is occurring in your inner circle or you could be accused of instigating it. Money you pay out for repairs will pay back tenfold so don't moan. Ring me. We have much to discuss this week. 0906 585 4367
GEMINI Just because you made a bad judgement in the past does not mean that you can't make any decisions about your future. Think of what occurred as a learning curve. One which will ensure that you don't make the same mistake again and one which, in fact, enriches your character. New attractions you experience over the coming days should be embraced, not fought. Ring now so I can tell you why. 0906 585 4362	SAGITTARIUS Relationships come under strain and you may find yourself saying things to loved ones you don't really mean just to get a reaction or to get them to back off. You're going to have to talk honestly at some point though Sagittarius and the best time to do this is midweek when you've both had a chance to calm down. Phone me to hear how I know promotions are possible now. 0906 585 4368
CANCER Something you thought you were counting on happening does not but, as you'll discover over the course of the next seven days, this will actually be doing you a favour. What comes in it's place opens up a whole new world of possibilities for you. Act on impulse and who will be there! Phone now for your full horoscope. 0906 585 4363	CAPRICORN Travel plays a key part in you taking your career up the next level this week. Don't rely on information given to you over the phone or by email, but do your own research to ensure you keep your reputation up where it belongs and that you get to where you need to be on time. Tips being planned will soon change your life forever. Ring now to hear how Venus ensures you speak from the heart. 0906 585 4369
LEO You've wasted far too much time on a person who doesn't even deserve a moments thought, let alone any good amount of your time. You realise that this week and although you feel lighter when you walk, you also feel heavy that you've been a bad judge of character. Don't be down, from this week you see life with clarity and compatible and fun faces await you. Ring now to talk about a legal link. 0906 585 4364	AQUARIUS No matter how sorry you're feeling for yourself right now, you're going to have to acknowledge deep down inside that you are loved and supported, even if those who care for you don't always share your views. Your element of air pushes you to act for effect but set a limit so you can manage damage that could be done. Saying sorry can solve much, if you're willing. Ring now for support and guidance. 0906 585 4370
VIRGO Bravery besets you this week and the very things you were avoiding dealing with last week are the things you want to tackle in the days ahead. Just watch out for certain influences trying to push you further than you should go. Trust in your own judgement in this time which shapes your future. Decisions you make now dictate the next ten years of your life. Ring now for structure and sense. 0906 585 4365	PISCES Talk is cheap this week so be sure to get any offers in your career in writing so that you can follow through with discussions. The truth is Pisces, that people want to help you. They just can't do it as quickly as you would like. Acknowledge this and you'll sleep far easier my friend. Wear your best clothes this weekend. You'll want to create a good first impression. Ring now to find out why. 0906 585 4371

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Film ends in tailspin as air marshal hunts killer

NON-STOP (12A, 106 mins) Action/Thriller. Liam Neeson, Julianne Moore, Michelle Dockery, Scoot McNairy, Nate Parker, Corey Stoll, Lupita Nyong'o, Omar Metwally, Linus Roache, Jason Butler Harner, Anson Mount. Director: Jaume Collet-Serra.

Passenger airplanes are a perfect environment for taut, edge-of-seat(belt) thrillers. The setting is confined and claustrophobic, the passengers excited and nervous, and the recycled air thick with tension and the waft of pre-packaged food.

Non-Stop continues the big screen bumpy ride by pitting an emotionally scarred, booze-sodden Federal Air Marshal (Liam Neeson) against a deranged serial killer during a transatlantic flight from New York to London.

Any of the 146 passengers could be the killer or the next victim, and the three screenwriters have fun at our expense by keeping us guessing who, if anyone, will survive the airborne slaughter.

While the premise is neat and the action sequences orchestrated with aplomb by Spanish director Collet-Serra – who worked with Neeson on the 2011 suspense thriller *Unknown* – the script hits severe turbulence when it comes to plausibility.

There are several, unintentional gaffaws including stereotyping by TV news stations following the story, who discover the hero harks from Irish stock.

Bill Marks (Neeson) boards a busy flight, trading knowing glances

with friends and colleagues, including a flight attendant called Nancy (Michelle Dockery).

As the lights dim to allow passengers to sleep, Marks receives a series of cryptic messages via a secure channel on his handheld device.

"In exactly 20 minutes, I'm going to kill someone on this plane", boasts the sender.

To prevent bloodshed, all Marks must do is transfer \$150m to an off-shore account before the deadline expires.

Captain David McMillan (Linus Roache) and co-pilot Kyle Rice (Jason Butler Harner) are sceptical about the authenticity of the threat.

"If there is no situation, don't create one," counsels McMillan.

Alas, the puppetmaster's threat becomes chilling reality and Marks spearheads a gung-ho one-man crusade to unmask the terrorist in his midst.

Prime suspects include seasoned traveller Jenn Summers (Julianne Moore), off-duty NYPD officer Austin Reilly (Corey Stoll), school teacher Tom Bowen (Scoot McNairy), technical wizard Zack White (Nate Parker) and air stewardess Gwen (Lupita Nyong'o).

The mission is compromised when authorities discover the bank account is registered in Marks's name, suggesting he is the diabolical genius behind the plan.

Non-Stop almost lives up to its name in terms of thrills and spills, and Collet-Serra makes light work of the 106-minute running time.

Alas, the clunkiness of the script



A scene from *Non-Stop*, with Liam Neeson playing Federal Air Marshal Bill Marks

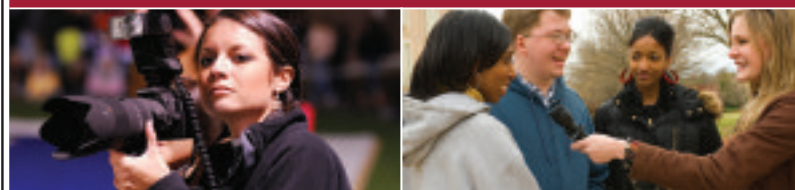
Picture: PA Photo/Studio Canal

ultimately sends the film into a tailspin and the histrionics of the final act feel rushed and unsatisfying.

Neeson continues his renaissance as a grizzled yet sensitive action hero, assaulting half of the cast and casting accusatory glances at the remainder.

Supporting performances are adequate, hampered by a paucity of character development, and some of the twists demand we suspend disbelief far above the doomed flight in the stratosphere.

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CakeWhat's on

Music

THURSDAY: Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford: Featuring Zizhou Zhang (piano), Daniel Shao (flute), Enyuan Khong (violin).

Prepare to be dazzled as three talented finalists of the Oxford Philomusica and Oxfordshire County Music Service Youth Concerto Competition each perform a concerto of their choice. Winner will be announced the same evening. 7.30pm. £30 £22 £15 £10. 01865 980980.

FRIDAY: New Inn, Main Road, Middleton Cheney: Jamie Felton, singer and guitarist, playing covers. Free admission. 9pm. 01295 710399.

SATURDAY: St Mary Church, Church Road, Cropredy: Moonrakers - acoustic group, specialising in Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English traditional and contemporary tunes and songs. Featuring Celtic harp, fiddle, guitar, Irish bouzouki, whistles and female/male vocals. £10 on the door. 7.30pm. 01295 758222.

SUNDAY: Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford: Andreas Moutsoulis - Greek guitar concert. £10, £8. 3pm. 01865 305305.

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:

Until Mar 8, *God Of Carnage*, by Yazmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton. A playground altercation between two 11-year-old boys brings together their parents for a meeting to resolve the matter. At first, diplomatic niceties are observed but as the evening progresses and the alcohol flows, tensions emerge and the gloves come off in this brutally entertaining play. Director Terry Gallagher and the cast will take part in a Q&A session following the show. 7.45pm. £8, £9.

Mar 9, Alan Carr. 8pm. £14. Sold out.
Mar 10, an entertainment with medium Tony Stockwell. 7.30pm. £18.50.

Mar 12, *The Only Way Is Downton*.

Direct from a West End season comes this first national tour of Luke Kempner's tour. As celebrities start appearing at the Abbey, cultures clash and eras hilariously collide in this brilliant new parody, which takes in many other popular TV shows and familiar modern voices to help the cast of *Downton* save the estate from financial ruin – again! 7.30pm. £14, concession £12. Box office: 01295 279002.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:

Until Mar 12, *Alarms and Excursions* with more plays than one by Michael Frayn. A series of short farces, conceived and presented as a single night of non-stop laughter, is delivered with breathless pace and energy by a top-notch cast and artistic director John Terry. Unpicking the headaches of the technological age in a glorious, comedy of errors. 7.45pm, matinee Mar 8 3pm. £14, concessions £12, school £8.50.

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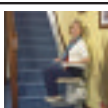
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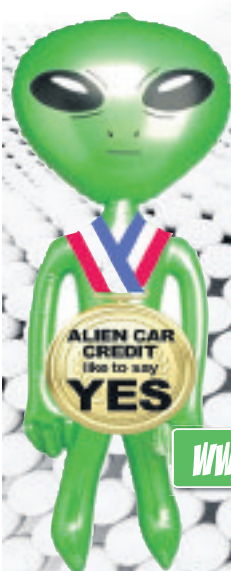
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TAKING THE TIME Unique, easygoing and fun-loving Towbridge female, 42, loves clubs, the seaside and a happy life in general, would like to meet a dark, decent man, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143389 or send a text to 80360

STRIKE FAST Bubbly, blonde, blue-eyed Devizes woman, 43, 5'6", enjoys listening to music, country walks and more, searching for a nice and genuine guy, to share car and the future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155233 or send a text to 80360

GENTLEMAN PARTNER WANTED! Sincere, loyal Christian Banbury female, 45, searching for a loving, kind-hearted and honest man, for friendship initially and hopefully a romantic relationship in the future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154128 or send a text to 80360

WALK IN THE PARK Sensitive, friendly and selfless Abingdon-On-Thames female, 46, searching for a spirited, warm male, for friendship and a fresh start in life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159088 or send a text to 80360

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 47, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132828 or send a text to 80360

OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION Laid-back Swindon female, 47, still looking for my Mr Right, to share and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126129

QUALITY TIMES Sunny, loving, divorced, loyal Swindon girl, 47, 5'3", average-build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a careful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116

DINE WITH ME Sincere, sociable Devizes lady, 48, non-smoker. I like country walks, pets, cosy evenings in, would like to meet a male who enjoys winning and dining for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 162460 or send a text to 80360

I CAN MAKE YOU SMILE Sensitive, loving Abingdon female, 51, brunet, enjoys, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, music, current affairs, seeking a similar male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141600

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 52, 5'7", grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804

ASK ME OUT! Caring, fit, 52 year old Chipping Norton female, 5'7", slim build, blue eyes, brunette, GSOH, enjoys swimming & dog walking. WLTm a caring, loving male, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 166419 or send a text to 80360

EASY TO GET ON WITH Caring, loving, 52 year old Oxford female, 5'7", slim, brown hair, blue eyes, enjoys swimming, dog walking, GSOH, attractive, who is looking for a really caring, honest man and a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165506 or send a text to 80360

LADY SEEKS GENT Outgoing, friendly, fit Bradford-On-Avon lady, 55, likes animals, walks, travel, seeking a similar male, for company and companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161075 or send a text to 80360

I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT Sincere Swindon woman, 55, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 or send a text to 80360

JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY Friendly, bubbly, caring female, 56, with a great sense of humour. Looking for a genuine, nice, romantic, caring guy, 55-58, with a GSOH, 6', medium build, for company, friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156609 or send a text to 80360

SHALL WE DANCE? Friendly, blue-eyed Swindon girl, 37, blonde, nature, well-travelled and loyal, love of life, searching for an active, educated man, who appreciates, food, wine and life in general. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110895

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated, attractive Witney female, 61, 5'2", curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 61, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451

LIVE THE LIFE YOU LOVE Cuddly Chipping Norton widow, 61, widowed with grown up family. Enjoys walking her 2 dogs and playing bowls for a local team. Seeks similar gent, for friendship and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132223 or send a text to 80360

HAND IN HAND Widow lady, 61, works part-time, enjoys socialising, meeting new people, country walks, holidays, seeks placid gent to enjoy laughter and more. Witney Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100300

STILL GOT IT Outgoing, bright Brunet, 57, still gorgeous, enjoys music, dancing, cinema, walks & galleries, seeks slim N/S male, 39-52, 5 Bucks. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 609532 or send a text to 80360

LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER Straight forward, kind and sincere Swindon woman, 68, N/S, likes music and current affairs, would like to meet a man, age 67-77, for fun, friendship and hopefully more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155949 or send a text to 80360

DOWN TO EARTH Happy-go-lucky Swindon female, young 72, loves walks, cooking, gardening, kisses, cuddles, looking for a N/S, clean-shaven man, for a loving relationship. Last caller please leave contact number. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 454288

WALK OF LIFE Self-assured, strong-minded and motivated Bampton girl, 72, just looking to meet a friendly, trustworthy male, for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156046 or send a text to 80360

COMPLETE THE PICTURE Attractive, honest Swindon lady, 75, 5'5", loves cinema, theatre, national trust, walks, would like to meet a tall, non-smoking gent, under 70 with a GSOH. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140415

TIME TO SHARE Lively Oxford male, 40, 5'10", med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117999 or send a text to 80360

MUCH MORE BRIGHT, upbeat and happy Oxfordshire man, 41, with personality, would like a date with a bubbly, tender, warm-hearted girl, to share the good times and great company. Could you be the one for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111253 or send a text to 80360

HOW ABOUT YOU? Nice, affable, sincere Devizes bloke, 43, 5'7", grey hair, average build, N/S, loves the outdoors, cinema, eating out and walks. WLTm an adorable, truthful lady, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 166123 or send a text to 80360

A LUCKY STRIKE Rational, positive and expressive Didcot man, 46, would like to find a funny, helpful female, for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161546

DON'T BE SHY, GIVE ME A TRY! Charming, happy, Abingdon male, 47, 6'3", enjoys pubs, clubs and nights out, but just as happy with a walk in the countryside and a night in by the fire with the right person. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 164128 or send a text to 80360

YOUNG AT HEART? Genuine, honest, self-employed Oxford male, 47, 5'9", own home and car, likes the seaside and country walks, would like to meet a youthful, happy future wife. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157106 or send a text to 80360

COME CLOSER Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 47, 6'3", looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080

LOOK TO THE FUTURE Jovial, innovative and self-sufficient Reading gent, 47, wants to meet woman, to have fun and who knows. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157382 or send a text to 80360

FUN AND ADVENTURE Professional, caring male, 47, 5'9", N/S, own home and car, enjoys days out to the seaside, seeking young-at-heart, honest lady, to spend quality time with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146399

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring down-to-earth Thame male, 47, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427

READY FOR A NEW START Down-to-earth, responsive and energetic Wantage guy, 50, just looking to meet a stable, consistent girl, 30-55, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 162727 or send a text to 80360

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing Wantage male, 52, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360

TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 52, with plenty of interests in life, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share love, laughter and the future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479

EYE TO EYE Nice gent, 53, enjoys history, coastal walks, 50s, 60s, walking, cosy nights in, cooking, DIY, would like to meet a lady for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152776 or send a text to 80360

ETERNAL COMPANIONSHIP Outgoing, divorced Witney male, 53, pubs, meals, nice walks, family life, seeking an interesting woman, to get to know better. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126741 or send a text to 80360

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 53, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW? Mature Oxford man, 55, 5'8", green eyes, N/S, likes music, walking and keeping fit, GSOH, would like to meet a nice, bright lady, for fun times and see where that leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158142 or send a text to 80360

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 56, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836

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MAKE A DATE Young-at-heart, blue-eyed Watlington man, 58, GSOH, enjoys dancing, would like to meet a friendly lady, to get to know each other and see where that leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159203 or send a text to 80360

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widower, 59, own cars, works full-time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

COME ALIVE Sociable, adventurous and interesting Bampton lady, 59, 6'3", brown hair, average build, seeking a dependable, self-confident lady, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 160696 or send a text to 80360

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 60, 5'6", slim build, self-employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140930 or send a text to 80360

FUN AND LAUGHTER Honest, sensitive and decent Oxford man, 60, would like to find a warm-hearted, genuine, caring woman, to share laughter and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145981 or send a text to 80360

PASSION FLOWER Youthful, friendly Oxford chap, 60, 5'9", dark hair, enjoys cinema, bowling, active days out and socialising, searching for a loving, happy and loyal woman, to build a lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

KEEPING WITH THE TIMES Happy go lucky, blue-eyed Banbury man, 60, 5'6", slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, countryside and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship, maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156014 or send a text to 80360

SCRUBS UP WELL! Optimistic, positive, 61 Witney male. I'm active with a good sense of humour. Having diverse interests and still scrubbing up well, seeking an attractive lady who is also active and enjoys life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161846 or send a text to 80360

POSITIVE ATTITUDE Fit Latino male, 62, looking for someone who can share fun, life in general and hopefully love with. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460522

PASS THE WAY Well-built Devizes widower, 62, own country cottage, own business, enjoys reading and gardening, seeking a nice lady, 40-55, for a happy relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100861 or send a text to 80360

SOUND LIKE YOUR MATCH? Tall, handsome, fit Abingdon male, 63, slim build, enjoys DIY, gardening, travel and walking, seeking a slim, petite, adventurous female, for good company and to enjoy a happy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159314 or send a text to 80360

MORE IN TIME Thoughtful, kind, self-employed Witney male, 65, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109413 or send a text to 80360

LOVING LIFE Loyal, solvent North Oxfordshire gent, 67, 5'9", loves soul and motown music, coffee and theatre, searching for an attractive, interesting lady, 50-65, to share and explore interesting times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998

A FRIEND INDEED Semi-retired Oxford male, 67, 6', slim-build, likes playing bowls, home life, seeking an easygoing female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137812

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Solvent retired business gent, North Oxfordshire, 67, own home and car etc, with a love of cinema, travel and new adventure, seeks a nice, loyal, feminine lady, for companionship then who knows? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140

OPEN YOUR HEART Cheerful, slim Banbury male, 70, 5'6", GSOH, likes sport, walks, animals and cosy evenings in, searching for a decent, positive lady, to settle down with and share a happy future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502

SEE FOR YOURSELF Youthful, faithful, Liberal and sympathetic Middlesbrough man, 73, looking for a sweet, sensitive woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502

GENT SEEKING LADY Genuine, thoughtful, 77 year old Bampton male, likes the countryside and places of interest, own car and enjoys day trips to the seaside. Would like to meet a female for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165407

SOUL TO SOUL Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 79, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving, lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937



Women seeking women

FRIENDSHIPS WITH FEMALES Straight, kind Bicester woman, 69, retired, and missing the social aspect of work so looking to find some female friends or an established social group, for days out and friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147186

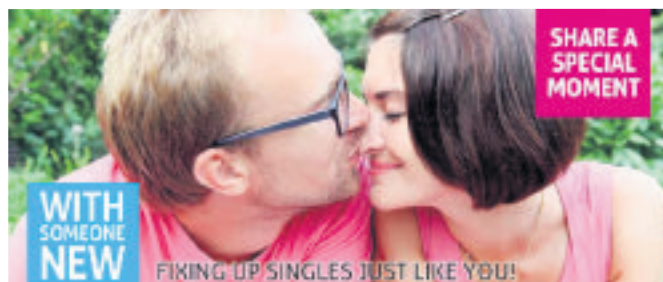


Men seeking men

LUCKY CHARM Friendly, happy, 37 year old gay Irish man living in Oxford, likes Karate and Boxing, would like to meet an older man for fun time friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 164169

SHOW YOUR COLOURS Honest, old fashioned, non-scene Oxford male, 57, fit, clean living, not into pubs, clubs or crowds, seeking a mature lady, for friendship, days out, holiday and fun times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 865303

MAKE A CONNECTION Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 65, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, seeks sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 8957624



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MEANINGFUL TIMES Active, outgoing Towbridge female, 58, loves cinema, seaside, travelling and animals, would like to meet a man for company leading to a possible relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117215 or send a text to 80360

NEED THAT SOMEONE SPECIAL Intelligent, attractive, well dressed, 60, widowed, enjoys keeping active and swimming, looking for a kind, intelligent, active male, for friendship, possibly more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151752 or send a text to 80360

LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Towbridge lady, 61, med build, 5'6", GSOH, N/S, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/S and caring for dates & more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116611

LOOKING TO SETTLE DOWN Youthful, outgoing, honest Towbridge woman, 61, 5'6", slim build, brunet, glasses, N/S, enjoys darts, car boot sales, bingo, gardening and more, seeking that special man, to settle down with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159284 or send a text to 80360

BE MY GOAL Lonely lady, 60, 5'7", simply the best, kind, loving & caring, likes antiques, car boot sales & eating out, seeks male for friendship & relationship. Bicester. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 940563 or send a text to 80360

LISTEN TO YOUR PETS go lucky Warminster female, 63, looking for a nice kind and reliable man to share good times together and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120544

LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER Sociable, witty Oxford lady, 66, would like to meet that special man, for companionship, a lasting friendship and see where it leads to from there. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158099

DO IT TOGETHER Down-to-earth, retired Bicester lady, 68, enjoys car boot sales, bingo, eating out and generally always up for a laugh, would like to meet a kind, caring gent, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158321 or send a text to 80360

BE MY GOAL Lonely lady, 60, 5'7", simply the best, kind, loving & caring, likes antiques, car boot sales & eating out, seeks male for friendship & relationship. Bicester. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 940563 or send a text to 80360

HONEST COMPANY SOUGHT Kind, caring Oxford female, 79, likes country drive, pub lunches, fishing, seeking a tall man, with a good sense of humour, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143388



Man seeking woman

SHARE SOME TIME Adaptable, upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 34, would like to find a warm, laid-back girl, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837

CARING & CONSIDERATE Kind-hearted, active Oxford man, 37, enjoys staying fit, playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female, for companionship and love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360



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